Restructuring of Theories
over the History of Japanese Party Government

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This paper is a preliminary work for the logical restructuring of the features of "Japan's party government" history.

At present, the so-called "local profit theory" is a commonly-held view in the study of "Japan's party government" history. But this "local profit theory" tends to ultimately see the merits of "party government" one-sidedly in the function of maintaining the power balance.

In order to avoid falling into this trap, and in order to construct a total theories over the history of "party government" this paper is not only based on the view that it is essential to find out the greatest requirements for "party government" in two power deciding functions, that is, the introduction of local profit demands, and the unification of executive powers in government, also takes the standpoint that it is necessary to introduce a viewpoint into policy-making by paying attention to the object of execution of these powers. Based on these two points, I advocate the need to proportionalize the requirements for power arguments in "party government" from the power, by means of the above. With such a critical mind, I have analyzed, in the first chapter, the changes in the policies of the Seiyukai party (1900~1940) during the period from the Hara Cabinet (1918~1921) to the Tanaka Cabinet (1927~1929).

In the second chapter, I have analyzed how the political party racked its brains to cope with the conflicts caused between the achievement of their political goals, and the measures for power construction required for that. I have also analyzed how these conflicts link with the pressure which brought about the destruction of "party government”, by focussing on the concept of the decentralization of power to the local authorities, which appeared during the period of the Tanaka Cabinet, and to the idea of electoral reform which appeared during the period of the Hamaguchi Cabinet (1929~1931). I have also presented the view that local profit demands do not necessarily exert favorable influences on the existence of "party government”.

And finally, I have presented a logical view of the period from the collapse of the
idea of reformation of "party government" to the establishment of a new system under the direction of Konoe Fumimaro (1891~1945).